



museums and monuments

From foyer exhibitions to large-scale museums, there is an extraordinary range of collections and displays to visit in and around the City as well as many sites of historical and architectural importance. Take your pick from a reconstructed Elizabethan galleon, a Bankside prison, a museum dedicated to clocks or a bell foundry – they're all listed here.

The listings that follow concentrate on those buildings that are usually or sometimes open to the public. City livery halls are not included as many can only be viewed by

attending special, one-off events or are exclusively for the use of corporate clients. To find out more about these buildings get hold of the London Open House programme. This organisation arranges special guided tours and/or events at some of the halls.

For a more detailed picture of museums in other parts of London, try

www.freelondonmuseums.org.uk
www.medicalmuseums.org
www.simg.freeseerve.co.uk
www.museums.co.uk



free



free although admission is charged for some events/exhibitions



admission charged

Bank of England Museum ★

Bartholomew Lane EC2
T 020 7601 5545

www.bankofengland.co.uk

Open: 10am-5pm Mon-Fri

Housed within the Bank of England, the museum traces the history of the Bank from its foundation by Royal Charter in 1694, to its role today as the nation's central bank. It boasts many attractions of which the chance to hold a real gold bar is the most popular among visitors.

Bramah's Museum of Tea and Coffee ●

40 Southwark Street SE1
T 020 7403 5650

www.bramahmuseum.co.uk

Open: 10am-6pm daily

Admission: £4, £3 concs

A little-known gem of a museum that is worth a visit if only out of curiosity. Special exhibitions complement a permanent display that juxtaposes tea and coffee-making practices from the 17th century with the modern-day teabag and jar of instant. The museum's café serves speciality leaf teas and ground coffees which may also be purchased retail.



Many of the graves at Bunhill Fields are packed closely together giving an idea of how London's burial places looked before large cemeteries, located further from the centre of London, opened from the 1830s onwards.

Bunhill Fields ★

City Road EC2

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/bunhill

Open: 7.30am-7pm Mon-Fri
April-September, 7.30am-4pm
Mon-Fri October-March,
9.30am-4pm Sat-Sun

Originally a plague pit (hence Bone Hill), Bunhill Fields is reputed to be the largest unconsecrated cemetery in Europe. It is the last resting place for an estimated

120,000 bodies, including those of John Bunyan, Daniel Defoe, William Blake, and George Fox. Today, it is a popular place for office workers to eat their lunchtime sandwiches and enjoy its tranquil beauty away from the hustle and bustle of the surrounding City. To view a grave which is in the enclosed area, please contact the attendant on duty (Mon-Fri, times as above) or telephone 020 8472 3584 to make an appointment.

Central Criminal Court (The Old Bailey) ★

Corner of Newgate Street and Old Bailey EC4

T 020 7248 3277

Open: 10.30am-1pm,
2-4pm Mon-Fri

NB: Those under the age of 14 will not be admitted. 14-16 year-olds must be accompanied by an adult. No electrical equipment such as mobile phones, video cameras and tape recorders will be allowed into the court room.

Oscar Wilde was tried here in 1895, Dr Crippen in 1910 and Peter Sutcliffe in 1981. The Central Criminal Court at Old Bailey has been the setting for some of the most talked about cases in British history. It should be noted however, that it is not a tourist attraction. The public are admitted to watch trials and for those interested in the processes of law, a visit may be of interest. If it's murder most foul that you are after, try the London Dungeon (p48).

The Charles Dickens Museum ●

48 Doughty Street WC1

T 020 7405 2127

www.dickensmuseum.com

Open: 10am-5pm Mon-Sat,
11am-5pm Sun

Admission: £4, £3 students and seniors, £2 children

Although Dickens period of residency at Doughty Street was relatively short compared to other homes, (March 1837 to December 1839), it was while living here that he found fame (*Pickwick Papers* and *Nicholas Nickleby* were among the works that he completed at this address). The house was bought and renovated by the Dickens Fellowship when it came under threat of demolition in 1923 and opened as a museum in 1925. Books, letters, manuscripts, pieces of furniture, pictures and personal possessions associated with the great novelist as well as some reconstructed rooms provide an insight to the life of one of the UK's foremost writers.



Opened in 1925, the museum gives a great insight into the world of Dickens the writer.

City of London Police Museum ★

37 Wood Street EC2

T 020 7601 2705/2455

Open: by appointment only
(telephone number given above)

Museum tracing the history of the City of London Police with artefacts dating back to 1832 when the original force was founded.

Clink Prison Museum ●

1 Clink Street SE1

T 020 7378 1558

www.clink.co.uk

Open: 10am-6pm daily
Admission: £4, £3 concs

Located on the site of the original Clink prison, the museum contains reconstructions of cell interiors and a hands-on display of original and reproduction restraining and torture devices. Models of prostitutes, debtors, heretics and other undesirables who were incarcerated within its walls help tell the story of the jail that gave rise to the expression 'in the Clink'.

The Clock Museum ★

Guildhall Library

Aldermanbury EC2

T 020 7332 1868 / 1870

www.clockmakers.org

Open: 9am-4.30pm Mon-Fri

The Clockmakers' Collection was begun in 1814 and is the oldest collection specifically of clocks and watches in the world. The entire exhibition has been recently re-ordered and now about 1000 exhibits form a sparkling display in a single room off Guildhall Library (p35). It tells the extraordinary story of "The Clockmakers of London" from c.1600 to the present day, and has been greeted with great critical acclaim.

College of Arms



Queen Victoria Street EC4
T 020 7248 2762

www.college-of-arms.gov.uk

Open: 10am-4pm Mon-Fri,
Earl Marshal's Court only
(free admission)

The College of Arms is the official repository for heraldic, genealogical and ceremonial records covering the past 500 years. Only the Earl Marshal's Court (the restored 17th century, wood-panelled entrance room) can be viewed without notice (when a receptionist is present). Fee-paying tours can be booked in advance for those wishing to visit the Record Room and receive a lecture on heraldry and genealogy.

Dennis Severs House



18 Folgate Street E1
T 020 7247 4013

www.dennissevershouse.co.uk

Open: Mon eves (times vary depending on light), 2-5pm first and third Sun of each month and noon-2pm on the Mon following first and third Sun of month

Admission: £12 Mon eve (booking required), £8 Sun (no booking required), £5 Mon following first and third Sun of month (no booking required)

Something of a time capsule this. Created by the artist Dennis Severs

– who used the house as his canvas – rooms are meticulously reconstructed to generate the feel of the still-occupied home of the Jervis family, Huguenot silk-weavers living in the early part of the 18th century. Although never seen, there is a sense that the family has been interrupted – their half-finished meal sits on the table, their voices are just audible from some other part of the house and in the rooms they have occupied that evening, candles still burn. Visitors are invited to wander the house in silence and soak up the atmosphere, allowing their senses to be permeated by the smells, sights and sounds of a living environment and relying on their imaginations to fill in any missing gaps. A remarkable and unique experience which, as the Dennis Severs House motto goes, “you either see or you don’t”.



Dennis Severs House is a living museum that captures the imagination.

Design Museum

See p11



Dr Johnson's House, a rare example of an early 18th century town house.

Dr Johnson's House



17 Gough Square, EC4
T 020 7353 3745

www.drjohnsonshouse.org

Open: 11am-5.30pm Mon-Sat
May-September, 11am-5pm
Mon-Sat October-April

Admission: £4, £3 students and seniors, £1 children

A small, independent museum dedicated to its former resident Dr Samuel Johnson who lived here from around 1748 to 1759 (during which time, he compiled the first comprehensive English Dictionary in 1755). The house was built in 1700 and, although sustaining serious bomb damage during the Blitz in World War II, is a rare example of a residential property of its period. Today, the house provides the visitor with an impression of what it might have been like during Johnson's occupancy, with its historic interiors, collection of paintings and prints, personal effects and other exhibits associated with his life.